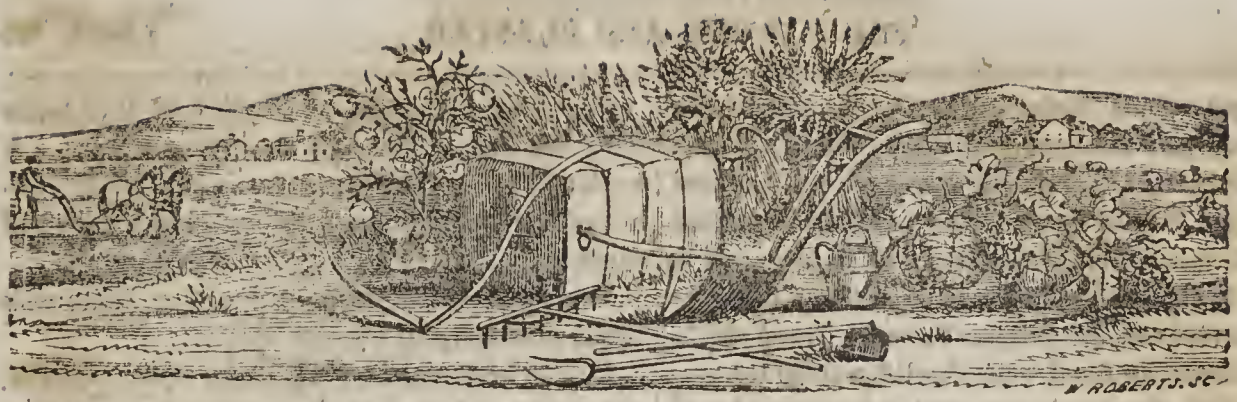

THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

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Address

OF R. F. W. ALSTON, ON SEA COAST CROPS.

(Continued from Page 52.)

PROVISION CROP.—Of all the various callings to which men in the low country resort for a livelihood, all, except the transient turpentine farmer,* raise a provision crop of Corn, Peas and Potatoes. Even the timber-getter, whose lumbering gigantic wheels require a goodly number of stout oxen for the heavy draught, while these are recruiting on the summer pastures of his native pine-barren, will put his horse to the plow and work out provision for the ensuing winter.

The hunter, too, who ranges now for game farther and wider than first he did, over natural meadows† upon which his stock of cattle luxuriate in summer, and through thick wooded swamps, where they seek shelter and forage during the hard weather of our brief winters. The hunter and his sons employ a part of several days in the week, during the proper season, in weeding the potato patch, and tending the corn and planting the slips and the peas, whilst the industrious wife, and thrifty, home-bred daughter, ply the spinning-wheel and hand-loom, to work up their own garden crop of Cotton with the coarse fleece of their native flock into comfortable jeans and flannels for the household.

*The man who hires laborers annually for the purpose, the Railroad contractor also, who hires male laborers only, for his work. Neither employment exercises wholesome influence on the habits of the negro.

†Large tracks of prarie called Savannas, which in May, June and July abound with the finest grass pasture, and at times are richly varied with beautiful flowers.

Corn—*(Zea Mais)—Maize.**—The land for Corn is seldom disturbed until near the time for planting, though it will not be doubted that the farmer would find profit in breaking up his land during the frosts of winter. It is laid off with the plow in drills, usually five feet apart, and the deeper the better. These drills, or furrows are filled with the litter from the stables, and the farm pen, and whatever else of vegetable matter may be at command, (the Rice planter uses rice-straw for this purpose.) They are then listed in or covered up with either the hoe or the plow—sometimes with both.

The Corn which is planted towards the last of March, is dropped (3 or 4 grains in one spot, to be thinned out, after healthy and vigorous vegetation, to one plant) in dibbles made upon the ridges thrown up as above, 3 or 4 feet apart, depending upon the producing power of the land.† Some farmers sow Corn as close as 2½ feet and even 2 feet. This, however, requires very strong land, enriched by manure. In general, it is not wise to plant thick; the field in full growth may be more promising and pleasing to the eye, and may produce more fodder, but less sound, heavy grain.

For the most part, this crop receives three plowings, and one hoeing, if the hoe can be spared. When in its tender state it is thinned out to one stalk. In the month of June it is thoroughly cleansed and laid by with the hoe, when Peas are sown in dibbles upon the ridges, midway between the Corn plants. This is done at such precise time as to allow the peas to vegetate and appear just before the Corn tassels. When the grain is sufficiently filled and hard, the blades of the plant are stripped and cured for forage. The fodder makes excellent food for horses, but the work of stripping is one among the least inviting and healthful to the laborers. Soon the dying stalks, no longer obstructing the rays of the sun from the lowly legume, are covered by the running pea-vines, which when in blossom, and when with full pods pendant from every stalk, present the field in an aspect rich and abundant in promise.

When gathered, Corn should be put up with the inner shuck on, in a house well ventilated, as open to the air as is consistent with the protection from damp.

On good farms the production of this grain is at the rate of 20 to 35 bushels per acre. A leading Waccamaw planter has repeatedly averaged, on thirty acres, fifty bushels per acre and more.

And soft Corn planted near the sea-coast tends gradually to become flinty.

Higher latitudes, and especially western lands, are better adapted to the production of Corn, yielding less wood, and more grain.

In the State of Indiana, for example, a crop has been obtained, much larger than ours, with a single plowing. A stand once secured, the weeds are suffered to grow up in common with the plant. Both mature, in nature's good time, when as much Corn is gathered as may be needed for the grainary,—the remainder is fed off to stock on the field, where it has been grown.

Of Potatoes,* *(Convolvalus)*—The land is prepared in like manner as for Corn. On rice plantations instead of straw, the "tailings" are used for Potatoes, viz: the finer particles of the straw produced by threshing out the grain, and separated by the process of winnowing, or fanning the grain clean, to be pounded. As on well managed farms these two crops are produced from the same ground, alternately; or in the order of rotation with Cotton—the land is laid off the same distance for both, whether it be 5 or 4½ feet, so that the beds, or ridges may be reversed every year. This preparation with Rice Planters is made by listing in the tailings in the mouth of February. The land lies thus until a convenient time for planting, somewhere about the last of March, when the earth on both sides is drawn up on the listing, so as to make as large beds as the ground will readily admit of. On the top of these beds, trenched for the purpose, the Seed Potato is dropped 6 or 8 inches apart, either whole or cut into two parts, as the quality of seed will allow or require. The trench is then covered with earth, and the seed left to vegetate. As soon as the sprout appears above ground, the work of cultivation begins, and it must be constantly, and dilligently followed up; or else disappointment will ensue as to the result.

The fine grass which makes its appearance with the Potato must never be suffered to take deep root, but must at once be shaved off with the hoe—and picked out by hand, so as to be entirely destroyed. As fast as any more grass,

*See Report "on the Culture of Indian Corn," made to the Winyah and All-Saints Agricultural Society, 20th April, 1848, by the Hon. J. R. Poinsett, for a full account.

†It is becoming a common practice to roll the seed Corn in a solution of coal tar, before planting it, in order to protect it from birds, &c

*For the elaborate and able Report by Dr. J. R. Sparkman, "on the Culture and Preservation of the Sweet Potato," see the Proceedings of the Winyah and All Saints' Agricultural Society, 18th April, 1850.

or weeds make show, they must in like manner be removed, while young, and growing only on the surface. If either be suffered to take root, loose, and rich as is the earth of the beds, their roots soon penetrate deep, and spread, when they can no longer be removed without disturbing the incipient growth of the young tuber, if indeed it be not pulled up altogether in extracting the weed. After hoeing, a good rain is the signal for breaking up the earth between the beds, and drawing it up with the hoe to the top of the beds, carefully around the plants. Upon this the vines shoot forth, and very soon cover the beds, shading the ground effectually, and thus preventing a new crop of grass.

This is the "root" crop. It is dug from September to November inclusive, and yields from 150 to 250, and even 300 bushels per acre.* The more productive crop, ordinarily, is that from the vine, or slip.

Thus the land intended for Slip Potatoes is generally sown down with oats† as a winter crop. These are harvested in June, by which time, Potatoes, if planted in rich ground, and kept clean, will have shot out vines, long, and abundant enough to cut for planting slips. The Oat stubble is listed in four and a half feet apart, (in order to alternate with Corn next year. Upon this listing, the plows throw four furrows, then the hoes come with the first rain, and make up good bed, flattening it on top. Along the top of these beds are carefully laid together three or four, or more, succulent vines, which are covered at the distance of sixteen, or eighteen inches, with a good hoeful of earth, leaving interval enough open for the leaves of the vine to breathe. Keep these clear of grass, and well earthed up, if washed by heavy rains, and the new vines will soon cover the face of the earth. If the soil be rich, and the planting be made in June, 300, 400, or even 500 bushels of Potatoes per acre, may be produced for winter use, depending upon the nature of the season, and the lateness of frost. The lightest frost will affect the vines, and effectually check the further growth of the tuber. The manifest effect of frost upon the vines, is the signal for gathering the crop. The alleys between the beds are filled with straw from the threshing-yard. On the first fair weather, the Potatoes are dug, and the straw covered up by the digging, soon decomposing, manures the land for the next succeeding crop of Corn. The Potatoes after remaining in large heaps on the field, protected by a covering of straw and earth, until the whole be dug, are housed* for winter use; the smaller roots being selected for seed, and carefully housed to themselves. The hogs are now turned in to feed upon the unearthed roots, and those which have been unavoidably covered over in the digging, with earth, and straw together. Before another season for planting arrives, the hogs, besides furnishing the usual supply of Pork and Bacon, will have given the field, by rooting after Potatoes, which their keen sense of smell traces out, the best kind of (not deep) subsoiling.

A good rotation course is, after the crop described above, to take two crops of Corn, then graze, then a crop of root Potatoes then Oats, and slips as just described, and so on.

The late lamented Ward, who confessedly stood foremost among Planters, was in the habit of dividing his upland into two portions; planting them every year alternately, in Corn and Peas—Oats and Potatoes. His crop of Corn seldom measured less than fifty bushels to the acre—his Slip Potatoes yielded six and seven hundred bushels, and sometimes more to the acre.

Alluival Lands.—Of the large quantity of land cultivated in the Carolinas, in Georgia and Florida, a good portion of the alluvial Swamp is destined to be reclaimed and converted to the farmer's use.

None of the Swamps on the great rivers in those States are under profitable cultivation,

*A Proximate Analysis of the Sweet Potatoe made by Emmons, and given in the Report of the Agricultural Survey of the State of New York, is attached, in order that it may be compared with that of Prof. Sheppard, reported in the Proceedings of the State Agricultural Society of South Carolina, and in order also to invite the attention of the Farmers to the other Analyses furnished by both these valuable works.

PROXIMATE ANALYSES OF THE SWEET POTATOE.

Starch	19.955
Sugar, and Extractive matter mostly Sugar	5.80
Dextrine	0.750
Fibre after boiling in a weak solution of Caustic Potash	1.850
Matter dissolved out of Fibre by a weak solution of Caustic, Potash	2.100
Albumen	5.900
Casein	1.050
A body that resembles	0.225
Water	69.515

†After the middle of January, Oats may be sown (1 bushel per acre) in a light furrow, made by the plow; the sower following the plow with seed, and the earth from the next furrow covering the grain.

*The house is built of good plank, with walls four feet high, covered with a tight shingle, or thatched roof, on a dry well drained spot,—from 40 to 100 feet long, and from 15 to 20 feet wide, with ventilators, allowing the escape of the hot moist air, and gases from within, but not admitting the ingress of cold frosty air from without.

which only can be permanent, except those which, having been reclaimed, are protected by dams *(levees)* from the destructive influx of heavy freshets to which those rivers are annually subject. Leaving out of view, for the present, the tide-swamp, the Cotton plantation nearest the Sea-coast which has been dammed on the Pee Dee, is Mr Gibson's near Marr's Bluff, where the Manchester Railway is to cross. That on the Santee belongs to Mr. Mazyck Porcher, and lies near, a little below the Santee Canal.

Doubtless there are many points upon these rivers and others as susceptible of like improvement, which would repay the labor, if the right plan of construeting levees be pursued. Col. John N. Williams' dams on the Pee Dee have withstood many floods, including those of the last two years.

There are many inland Swamps, bordering on the tide-water country, from the Neuse to St. Mary's—(perhaps farther) sources of short streams, capable of being drained, and ultimately tilled; which contain not only thousands of acres of land suitable for Corn, small grain and meadow grasses, but also an abundance of excellent timber,—some white oak, as well as cypress and ash. Among these, I may mention the immense tracts bordering on the Lake Waccamaw, the beautiful reservoir into which are emptied the floods of the adjacent low lands, to be discharged gradually into the bold river of the same name. This Lake, in North Carolina, some five miles long, by about three miles wide, is surrounded by dense forests of Swamp abounding in timber, which all will be brought into market, or domestic use, whenever the lands shall be drained for cultivation. The white marshes too, through which meanders a small stream tributary to the Waccamaw, although they could afford no timber, could be reclaimed, and would seem to offer to the enterprising Planter, the temptation of a boundless field.

Let us revert to the time, not more than a century distant, when Indigo was grown in Carolina, for exportation.

The now fruitful Rice-fields of Santee and Pee Dee, and Waccamaw, which bear in grain such teeming tribute to productive wealth, and which, in extent of cultivated level, stretched out, in the direction of the ebbing current, beyond the visible horizon, were then but dense, and dark interminable Swamps, the home of the owl and the alligator. Tide swamps they were, the soil of which though very rich, was useless to the residents and settlers of that day.

If some active proprietor, desirous of converting it to his profit, was hardy enough to plant in Corn, an occasional knoll, more elevated than the rest, the loss of Corn and Pumpkins, two years out of three, deterred his neighbors generally, from following his example. In periodical addition to the alluvial loam, the shaded surface is enriched by the ultimate decomposition of the annual fall of leaves from the deciduous forest, extending miles across, from river-bank to river-bank. These leaves were often covered up entirely by the deposits of freshets, freighted as they were with the disintegration of rocks above, and the debris of marl-beds below the falls.

The spring-tides also of the summer solstice, seldom failed to bring their contributions of silt from the muddy bays and creeks of salt-water. Lifted by angry waves and held suspended, this silt was borne along with the current of brackish water, sometimes far inland.

When these two causes operated in conjunction—namely, when a heavy freshet from the high-lands was met by muddy gale-tides, rolling up from the salt estuary below, the deposit precipitated was much deeper at the meeting of the waters.*

The extensive forest once sustained by this alluvial formation has disappeared as far up, almost, as tide-water flowed then. Thousands of acres of this same Swamp on each river, may now be traversed, and not a stump be seen above ground. The Swamp has been reclaimed. The tide is shut out, subjected to regulation, and rendered tributary to the enlightened designs of the Rice Planter.

The numerous Islands of which this region is composed are all enclosed (leaving an outside margin twenty to thirty feet wide) by dams high enough and strong, to resist the highest spring-tides. The entire area is divided into "squares" or fields, containing twelve to twenty acres each, by a series of check-banks, made up by excavating all around the field, at a distance of eighteen feet from the center of the line on which the bank is to be located, a ditch some six to eight feet wide, by five feet deep.

The fields are further prepared for cultivation by excavating from ditch to ditch in one direction, a number of smaller ditches, called "quarter drains," fifteen to eighteen inches

*See Report to Committee of Patents on Rice, 1852, page 88, for a notice of the deposit on Santee (over 2 inches) in 1845.

wide, and three feet deep, located parallel to each other, at the distance of seventy-five, or or fifty, or thirty-seven and a half feet apart, as may be required by the nature of the land, and the pitch of tide in which it is found. Across the frontier bank, and in a line with one of the main ditches, a deep cut is made, in which is placed and covered up, a (wooden culvert twenty feet long, and open, four feet by two) "trunk," furnished at both ends with a sluice-gate, for either admitting the tide over the field, or withdrawing it as may be desired.

Thus has the tide-swamp been subdued, and converted into flourishing fields, inviting diligent husbandry. The owl has fled to some far off wilderness, and the alligator hides his diminished size at the first sound of human approach.

Sailing up one of those fruitful rivers, the traveller may now behold many miles of serpentine embankment, (continuous save where a water thoroughfare occurs—enclosing thousands of acres, checked into fields, which bear in waving luxuriance, crops of this translucent grain.*

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The following is rather an unusual subject for Committees of Agricultural Societies to report on, but as farmers and planters have as much to do with children as have any other class, we think it altogether a legitimate subject, and one in this instance, that has been well handled by the Committee.—Ed. F. & P.

Reports of Committees

To the Agricultural Association of Laurens District, at its Annual Meeting, held at Laurens C. H., on the 27th Sept., 1854.

NURTURE OF CHILDREN, WHITE AND BLACK.

The committee to whom was assigned the duty of reporting on the subject of "the nurture of children, white and black," beg leave to offer the following imperfect view:

Your committee, in attempting the discharge of this duty, will not be expected to do more than present a few general considerations, founded on the experience of the best and closest observers of the laws of nature, without pretending to originate plans of our own. And should we be able to present and impress the prominent points connected with the hygienic management of children, on the public mind, so that good results may follow, we shall feel that our labor is not in vain, and that the ends of the society are in some sort attained. The great mortality attending children in this and other countries, demonstrates the necessity of calling public attention to this subject, and forces on the inquiry, whether or not gross inattention and ignorance has not been, in a greater or less degree, practised in their nature, and what means have we for alleviating this terrible evil? "Surprise," says Dr. Combe, "is sometimes expressed at the number of children who are carried off before completing their first or second year; but when we consider the defective education and entire ignorance of the human economy, not only of the nurses and servants, to whose care the young are entrusted, but of the parents themselves, our wonder ought to become greater, that so many survive than that so many die. A visit to your graveyards, where sleep thousands, whose budding life has been "nipped by untimely frosts," when it promised more of hope and loveliness, will further attest the importance of this subject, and induce you to seek more earnestly for means, if any we have, to curtail this fearful mortality. The remedy lies, as we would reasonably expect, in a strict observance of the suggestions and dictates of the laws of nature, as elicited by past observation and experience, and whoever rightly interprets nature need not err. It is by guarding against the sources of disease, by duly attempting and modifying external agents, by acting strictly on the preventive plan, rather than by undertaking to remove maladies when they occur, that we may hope to succeed. The diet of children must be made to accord with their age, progress of dentition, and other circumstances; their clothing must be carefully adapted to the weather and seasons. They must be allowed to inhale a pure, unconfined and wholesome atmosphere of a proper temperature. They must have exercise in the open air, and the skin be kept free of all impurities by constant care and frequent ablutions. Their repose should be as sweet, quiet and refreshing as possible. They should be sedulously watched and guarded, by some competent person, to shield them from harm. And there are a thousand other points attending their nurture, that a mother's affection will anticipate and provide for. In a word, the laws of hygiene must be closely studied and implicitly obeyed."

But, perhaps, it is desirable that more particular rules should be laid down as to diet, clothing, &c., for the guidance of mothers and

*Rough Rice as it comes from the field is tranlucent in a degree sufficient for an experienced eye, when holding a head or sheaf of Rice up toward the Sun, to detect the red-rice, which is opaque.

nurses, and those having the care of children.

First, then, the best possible diet for infants is that celebrated by nature, the *mother's milk*. or if a diseased state of the mother, or a deficiency of supply, or other things require, then that of a wet-nurse, whose infant is of the same age, and better younger than older. Or if these cannot be furnished, the next best substitute is the fresh milk of a healthy cow, (and constantly from the same animal,) sweetened with loaf-sugar and weakened with a little water. or boiled, if found to agree with the stomach of the little subject. Nothing solid is at all admissable, until dentition has made considerable progress. At this stage farinaceous article may be allowed, mixed with and softened by milk or animal broths of a mild and unstimulating character. And when second dentition is complete, a due admixture of animal and vegetable food will be found best suited to the economy of the system. The proper time for giving food is best regulated by the demands of a healthy appetite, and the natural signs of hunger an thirst; remembering at the same time, that children require to be fed much oftener than adults, in order to support both the growth and waste of the body. Also, remembering that there is danger either in under or over feeding; in the former you have he evil consequences of defective nutrition, in the latter those of plethora.

Furthermore, we would remark, in connection with this subject, that owners of slaves will find it greatly to their own interests, as well as those of humanity, to devote especial attention and care to rearing of their offspring, more attention, we think, than is generally given or supposed necessary. It should be assigned as the particular duty of the mother to take care of her offspring, and no service should be exacted of her, that would interfere with this duty. She should not be required to undergo an amount of labor or exercise that would overheat her blood, or live on an unsuitable diet, the consequence of which would be to vitiate the milky secretion, and thereby endanger the health of the child. Her quarters should be roomy, comfortable, well-ventilated and cleanly.

Children, white and black, should be provided with flannel for the fall, winter and spring months, to be worn next to the skin, together with a sufficiency of other clothing to keep them comfortable and allow a change. And it is of especial importance that the limbs and neck should be equally protected with the body, from the influence of cold and damp, fashion or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. Being more in accordance with the principles of nature, sanity and common sense. Writers agree that lightness, simplicity and looseness are the important points to be considered in the apparel of children. It is, furthermore, important that the clothing of children should be constantly regulated by the state of the weather. thereby avoiding the evil effects of sudden changes, which, doubtless, are the cause of much of the fatality that prevails.

Personal cleanliness is another point that we would particularly insist on, as being greatly conducive to health, and would cite the neglect of it, especially among negro children, as the fruitful source of many of those loathsome and obstinate cutaneous diseases, not to mention others, that so much abound with this class of subjects. Health and filth are antipodes; the former cannot long co-exist with the latter. And experience establishes fully the fact, that those children whose skins are kept scrupulously free of all impurities, by a daily bath and other necessary attentions throughout the period of childhood, are always more robust and healthy. The bath should be at first tepid and gradually reduced in temperature, as the child grows older and stronger.

Lastly, in pursuance of this subject, your committee would take occasion to animadvert most strongly on the baneful practice of some parents, who treat their offspring as exotic plants, to be reared only on the hot-house-system, confining them constantly within doors; anxiously excluding the pure breath of heaven, preventing healthful exercise in the open air, and repressing the exuberant spirits of childhood and the growth and development of the system, by every sort of unnatural contrivance; thus raising, in many instances, a delicate, fragile flower, which opens its petals and blooms for a brief season, then passes away forever.

Your committee are fully aware that they have only glanced at the subject, but if they have succeeded in some degree, in arresting public attention and awakening public interest to its importance, they rest satisfied.

A. C. FULLER, Chm'n.

To Clean Window Glass.—Take finely pulverized indigo, dip into it a linen rag moistened with vinegar, wine, or water, and apply it briskly to the glass. Wipe off and polish with a dry cloth. This method of cleansing window glass imparts a brilliant polish, and is far more expeditiously accomplished than cleaning with soap suds or whiting.

Forman's Patent Iron Plow.

Something more about the Iron Plow Stock, according to our promise in the last number.—Ed. F. & P.

Dr. Cloud—*Dear Sir*: The advantages of this plow presented, may be enumerated as follows, viz:

1st. Its indestructible material and exemption from wear, being entirely shielded by the share.

2d. Its lightness and simplicity—the smallest plow-boy being able to lift it round, or from one row to another—and the most ordinary mechanic to restore any accidental derangement.

3d. Its adaptedness to all the different shares, thereby enabling the farmer to perform all the various operations of plow culture from subsoiling to scraping, including turning and ridging, in the most perfect manner, with the same set of stocks.

4th. The construction of the beam, its thickness offering no impediment to the stubble or trash as it slides over the share, and by bracing the foot from behind, giving great strength and steadiness to the plow, with impeding its operation in the least in subsoiling or turning.

5th. The peculiar adjustment of the various shares relieving the plow from all latteral pressure, thus dispensing with one-third or one-half of the draft power necessary to operate an ordinary plow. The writer is sustained in this conclusion not only by his own five years' experience, but by the concurrent testimony of his neighbors,

With the subsoil, in moderately stiff land, a good horse will break one and one-quarter acres, seven or eight inches deep, per day of ten hours, and by preceding it with a turner, or attaching two horses, eleven or twelve inches can be obtained.

The Medium breaks one and a half acres, five or six inches deep, per day. The Turner here presented is approved of here, as it throws the earth higher and farther than any other, (although it does not lay sward so evenly as some others,) thereby enabling the operator to throw up higher ridges. When it is required to turn the furrow slice evenly, more length and twist and less width of moul-board is necessary.

The Scraper is easily adjusted to run any required depth, from one-half to two inches; operates like a weeding hoe, and is a most effectual grass killer in smooth land; where the land is rough or stumpy, the Sweep answers the same purpose—i. e., annihilates the grass without disturbing the roots of the growing crops.

Thus, in this simple and cheap arrangement, we have not only all the advantages of all the best plows in use, but many others not attainable by any other implement.

Agricultural societies have awarded premiums to the exhibitors of this plow whenever offered, viz: at Augusta, Columbus and Atlanta, though never presented by the proprietors. The property in this patent has now nearly all changed hands, the proprietors having sold about $30,000 worth of rights during the preceding ten months, without travelling, puffing, or even advertising, and having pertinaciously resisted every temptation to enter the arena of humbuggery; but relying confidently on the discrimination of an intelligent though often deceived public, they have waited for the plow to gradually widen the circle of its adoption, and work its way into public favor by its merits alone; and they now have the satisfaction of announcing a success as unexampled as unexpected, and can now, without incurring the charge of cupidity, confidently recommend the plow to the agricultural interests of the United States, as combining more of the elements of economy with good husbandry, than any other plow extant.—*American Cotton Planter.*

From the Virginia Sentinel.

The Mode of Using Guano.

A few days ago we received a letter from an agricultural friend, of the Piedmont region, desiring to know the opinion of our learned and practical fellowcitizen, Professor Benjamin Hallowell, as to the propriety of using ashes in connection with guano. As this is the season when farmers are about to apply their guano, we requested Professor H. to give us his views in a form that would enable all our readers to share the benefit. This he has very kindly done in the letter which we publish below:

Alexandria Boarding School,
9 mo, 19th, 1854.

Esteemed Friend:—In reply to thy inquiry respecting the propriety of mixing ashes with guano previous to sowing, I may state, that it is entirely opposed to chemical principles, to mix live ashes, or quick-lime, with any animal manure. Ammonia, the chief valuable characteristic ingredient of animal manures, is usually found in these manures in combination with some organic acids, and these acids, owing to the generally stronger affinity, unite with potash and lime when they are present

and liberate the ammonia, thus rendering the manure of much less value.

But this is not the only injury. The liberated ammonia unites with the acids in the soil, as the humic, crenic and apocrenic acids which are almost insoluble, and forms compounds, readily dissolved and washed from the soil by the rains, greatly depriving it of those constituents upon which its fertility chiefly depends.

It is the deteriorating effects arising from the escape of the ammonia, and the soluble compounds it forms with the organic acids in the soil, that indicate the propriety of mixing plaster with guano to "fix" the ammonia, previous to sowing it on the land. The first crop may be none the better thereby, and, in some rare instances, possibly not quite so good; but the land will be in a state more favorable to the growth of subsequent crops.

I will take this occasion to repeat, that I regard the discovery of guano, and its introduction into this country, as a great blessing. It increases the fertility of our soils, and affords the means of improving many lands, otherwise in a state of hopeless sterility. But, we must not depend upon the use of this, as the settled policy of farming, to the neglect of our home manures. It is opposed to every principle of political economy, to send as far as half the circuit of our globe for guano, and neglect equally or even more valuable manures, on our very premises, and in our neighboring cities. What an amount of money, now sent abroad for guano, might be retained in the country, and the farmers be quite as well supplied with fertilizing materials, were only a proper system adopted, which is entirely practicable, of returning the waste animal and vegetable matter to the soil; and how great a benefactor will he be, who succeeds in adequately awakening public attention to the subject. I tried to do this in my address to the citizens of Loudoun, at Leesburg, two years ago; but my voice was not strong enough. Cannot the Sentinel speak louder, and make himself effectually heard?

Thy sincere friend,

Benj. Hallowell.

From the American Cotton Planter.

Red Clover.

Every year's experience adds to my estimation of red clover. To say nothing of the value it has imparted to my lands, and a liberal amount of grazing furnished by it for other stock, it has enabled me this season to kill 60,000 lbs. of as fine pork as Kentucky can exhibit. This is independent of a surplus of corn and a crop of cotton which is not yet finished. This statement is made, I assure you, not in a spirit of egotism, but for the purpose of stimulating every black land planter to avail himself of the great benefits of this valuable grass.

I would say much more on the subject of this communication, but fearing that I have already tired you and may do it still more if I go on, will conclude with the hope that you will now release me from my pledge, however imperfect you may deem the consideration which this hastily written article furnishes.

Yours truly, I Croom.

A Lesson from the Drought.

We have endeavored occasionally to impress upon the farmers and planters of this country, the importance of adopting a more thorough and judicious tillage than at present generally obtains. During the present season, in passing through different parts of the State, we have been more than ever convinced of the evil of close culture, especially in the production of corn. We notice this subject now, that our agricultural friend may be duly impressed with the importance of planting hereafter more sparsely, plowing more deeply, and preparing more thoroughly the soil. We beg them, in the preparation of their lands for wheat, corn, oats, and indeed all important crops, to try the system of subsoiling. We have seen it tested in Floyd county, in a wheat crop, with the most satisfactory results. Upon this subject the Chattanooga Gazette adds its testimony. After stating the almost entire failure of the corn crop in that section, it says:

"The experience of this fatally dry season ought to convince every farmer of the importance of deep plowing, even subsoiling. Fields that have thus been cultivated, have stood the drought wonderfully, and will make a tolerably fair yield."

From the American Cotton Planter.

Plantation Policy.

Dr. Cloud—*Dear Sir:* Is it not a propitious time to urge strennously the necessity of curtailing the cotton culture, and to increase the culture and production of other articles used on our Southern plantations, such as planting more corn, potatoes, peas; sowing more wheat, oats, rye; raising more mules, horses, hogs, cattle; and have better milch cows; take better care of our negroes, especially our negro children; beautify and improve our plantations, make more manure, plant less land, and make heavier crops, and improve the comforts of our slaves, horses and mules?

It is not so hard a matter to convince the mind by reasoning, when the facts advanced are not only easily seen but felt, from the inconvenience and harrassment they produce. Cotton at 8 cents—bagging at 20 cents—rope at 11 cents—corn at $1—flour at $11 becon at 11 cents—mess pork at $24—mules, from $125 to $150—good horses, from $150 to $200—negro shoes at $1.25, and other articles necessary on our plantations selling at enhanced prics. Such prices are much disproportioned to the price of our cotton, and the probability is it

may be no better for some time to come. If the European war continues long, provisions will continue high from the demand it creates; and cotton may continue low from the scarcity of money, and the apprehensions it produces in the manufacturing and commercial communities.

We, too, often in the South, in passing plantations, see shackling fences—horses and mules standing in a ramshacked lot half-leg deep in mud, without any shelter to protect them from the inclement weather; stock of all descriptions passing at will, to and fro, all over the plantation, often, too, before the crop is all gathered; little old smoky huts for negro houses. The latter, I think, is always an indication of the want of some refined feelings in the owners. Our country, though, has improved very much in this matter, owners finding it to their interests to study more the comforts of their slaves.

I might go on in this desultory way of writing to the exhaustion of your patience without lacking ideas, but why tell you what you already know, and perhaps what every body knows? It is easy to say how we would like to have every thing, but to have every thing to please us, is a question.

Very respectfully yours.

J. H. Zimmerman.

Lower Peach Tree, December, 1854.

The above opportune and highly important hints, on the home policy of our plantation economy, are entirely appropriate at this period of high prices for plantation necessaries, and the low price of our great staple. We are not of those who believe that the country produces too much cotton, nor do we believe that the production of less cotton, in the abstract, is the remedy to relieve the pressure that now weighs so heaviiy upon the planting interest of the country. We do believe, however, that our cotton is grown at too great expense, and that its production is too much of *a one idea* policy with us. Corn, that we can make as well as any people, is $1 per bushel, and by far too many of our planters have to buy it! Pork, which we can raise as well as any people, is 7c. (net) per lb., and too many of our planters have to buy it? Mules, that we can raise as well and cheap as we can cows, are selling for $150 each; *they are essential* to the production of cotton! These are the three great leading necessaries to the production of cotton. With the climate and soil peculiar to the production of cotton, Nature has also furnished us with all the elements necessary to grow up with it, all the means of its production. If we produce it—the cotton—and exchange it for gold and silver, at 6 and 7 cents per lb., to pay for corn, bacon and mules, ruling at high rates, to grow more cotton, whether little or much, the unnatural burthen must be felt, and it will, from necessity, be felt by those who choose thus to take it upon themselves. We are under no obligations to make cotton at such cost, though half the old world should need a shirt; independence and prosperity throughout all our plantation economy, constitute our true policy, and in the full fruition of that, just as much cotton as the forces of the plantation our country can produce, and we shall be prosperous and happy, though the Eastern war depress the price. Let us hear from you again, Doctor.—Ed. American Cotton Planter.

Transplanting Trees, Roses, Shrubs and Evergreens.

From an article recently published, we observe that November is recommended as the proper season to transplant fruit trees. Some seasons this month would do, but the present year the transplanting of fruit trees would have been extremely hazardous, as we have not as yet, in middle South Carolina, had a frost sufficiently severe to check vegetation completely. Our young trees and roses took such a strong growth after the extreme hot weather ceased, that it will take, at least, till the twenty-fifth of November to fit them for transplanting. A tree should never be taken up whilst it will visibly shrink upon removal. We have no criterion in the dropping of the leaves of the forest trees, as the origin of forest trees is so various that many kinds require a certain degree of cold to stop their growth. Young nursery trees, too, being well cultivated, hold their leaves longer and grow more luxuriantly than fruit-bearing trees in orchards—so the proper time to transplant is, whenever the juices of the tree become inactive. A dry summer, with an extreme degree of heat, followed by a delightful and seasonable autumn, prolonged into the heart of winter, has with us added a third more wood of late growth to trees, and has at the same time delayed the season for transplanting.

In South Carolina, we find no difficulty in transplanting trees and shrubbery from November 25 to as late in the Spring as we can retard the leaves. Trees should never be touched when the soil is frozen. The milder and drier the weather in winter, the better the success will be had. We dig our holes after plowing the land, as deep as we can; twelve inches deep, and at least five feet in diameter. We half fill the holes with good rich vegetable compost, broken bones, &c., and then place the tree in its proper position, the earth in the hole being a little more elevated immediately under the trunk. We then place the roots so that they are arranged in every part of the hole, when it is filled up carefully with a similar compost. The tree should not be planted more than an inch deeper than it stood in the nursery. When the hole is about three parts filled, we pour gently around the stem about five gallons of water, after which the operation is finished by completely filling it up, and making a slight mound around the trunk. We never pack in the earth around a tree, as the watering will consolidate it sufficiently around the roots to make it grow. This watering will be all the tree will require, if it be properly mulched with leaves, straw, sawdust, or old tan-bark. If trees have been long out of the ground, the roots should be well soaked six hours before planting, and we have frequently revived such

as were to all appearances dead, by burying them entirely in the earth for ten days, after having restored vitality to the bark by soaking them in water. The trunks of all newly transplanted trees should be protected from the sun. A bunch of broom sedge, so common every where in the South, if properly tied around them, is the best means of doing so. We head in all trees severely, no matter how fine the roots may be prepared for removal, one year previously, by cutting in both their heads and roots but, at best, the removal of large trees at the South is hazardous and unprofitable. Stakes to trees are useless. When a tree will not stand erect, it should be manured and cut in till it acquired sufficient vigor to stand as a tree. The knife and food is all a tree requires to keep it erect and vigorous. Until newly planted trees are firmly rooted, they should be regularly inspected and straightened up. When watering is necessary, the earth should be removed for a few inches from the tree, and the water poured gently around the trunk, till the earth in the vicinity of the roots absorbs it. This should be done in the evening to be effective, and the small hole made should be carefully filled up the next day by sunrise, with loose mellow earth, after which the mulching should be placed around the tree. When the buds of a newly planted tree are dormant and late starting, we have frequently found that an additional watering of the limbs and trunk immediately roused them into active growth. In fact by wrapping the stem and and limbs of a valuable pear tree, the roots of which had been destroyed by rats on shipboard, with rags, and regularly moistening them, we served the variety, and induced the tree, which had not a vestige of fibrous roots left, to live and flourish. It is now as vigorous as need be, and its roots have spread as widely as its top.

For transplanting roses, evergreens, and shrubbery, we would advise the deep and thorough preparation of the soil throughout the whole plat, and then plant much in the same manner as directed above for fruit trees. Roses and decididious shrubs, and such evergreens as do not belong to the *Consferæ* and cypress families, should have their heads well cut in. The *Pinaceæ*, embracing the suborders of *Abieteæ* and Cupresseæ, and in which are comprised the Firs, Cedars, Arborvitæ, Cypresses, larches and all resinous evergreen trees together with the yews, do not require much pruning, when transplanted, as it must be done when the trees are very small. The holly, both native and foreign, and which under proper culture is a beautiful evergreen tree, requires great cutting in when transplanted. All land before planting trees should be thoroughly drained.

We receive so many queries as to these things, that our leisure will not permit us to answer each correspondent separately, however much we might be inclined to do so. We, therefore embody the above hints and ask the newspapers of the State to give them publicity, as matters of general interest to their readers.

SUMMER & CMAMMOND,

Pamaria Nurseries, Nov. 20, 1854.

From the American Cotton Planter.

Thoughts on Guano.

Dr. Cloud—Dear Sir:—Having used Guano for several years. I have concluded that my experience in reference to it might not prove wholly uninteresting, or entirely without value to those planters of the South who may be, like myself, struggling with old and badly worn plantations; and if you think the following lines worthy of a place in your columns they are at your disposal.

The main and only question to be determined in the use of guano is, whether or not it is profitable? This depends on so many circumstances—the cost of the guano, the price of the guano, the price of cotton, the kind of lands to which it is applied, and the manner in which the calculation in regard to the profit, is made—that no general answer can be given. Taking the cost of guano at $55 per long ton, (2240 pounds,) and cotton at present prices, and in estimating the profit not making any charge for the preparation of the guano, the application of it, or the picking out the additional quantity of cotton; but determining it solely by the nett gain at the end of the year, (which is my mode of calculation about which I will say a word hereafter, I am of opinion that it will pay. It is much better adapted. though, to some lands than others, and the same kind of land in one condition than another—and to this point I will chiefly address my remarks.

As a general thing I believe it will pay better on good than on inferior land; or to particularise, I believe that a given amount of guano—say 100 lbs—will pay better on land that will, of itself, produce 1000 pounds to the acre, than on land that will not, of itself, produce more than two or three hundred pounds. My reason for supposing so, is this: that the land which would, unaided, bring 1000 pounds to the acre, must possess a very considerable amount of ingredients, out of which the cotton plant can generate cotton; and if you give the plant additional health and vigor, by supplying it with food so easily obtained as guano, you strengthen and increase its organs, make it a more hearty feeder, or a greater consumer of the ingredients found in abundance in this better soil, than the same amount of guano could on a poorer soil, where these ingredients were wanting. This, though, is only theory with me, as I have never given it a fair test; and. even if I had established it, beyond doubt, by successful experiment, it would result in but little good to the mass of cotton planters, as not many plant land of such high productiveness.

Nearly all of my experiments have been made on old and worn lands, the most of which were originally good. None are so badly worn or exhausted, though, as not to produce vegetation when at rest---some better some worse.---This is the third year I have tried it, and I am well enough satisfied with the results to continue its use. Some acres though, I am certain, will not pay expenses. On the bald clay spots, and wherever the soil is poor and sandy to any depth, and had not been rested the year before, it has not done well, and worse on the sandy than clay soil. Even on some sandy places

where it had not had the advantage of rest, I doubt if it will pay, yet on others apparently no better, it has yielded finely. I do not intend though to desist using it on the clay spots, as it benefits the cotton to some extent, and if rested the year after, will, I think, improve the growth of vegetation, and thereby improve the land.

My idea in regard to the manner in which the Cotton is benefitted by the guano on the kinds of lands I plant, is in affording the plant sustenance at once, thereby giving it sufficient health and constitution to enable it to manufacture or grow cotton out of the coarse and somewhat indigestible food found in the soil, which it could not do unaided by guano, or some other concentrated fertilizer. If it has to subsist without any assistance, in this poor and worn soil, as a natural consequence it will be delicate and sickly---possessing small short roots, and its digestive organs will remain during its entire growth too feeble to consume this coarse food found in the soil. If you enable the plant to take up this food, a very important object is accomplished.

As to the general impression that guano is exhausting to land, and will ultimately injure it, I cannot speak from experience; but my opinion is, that if it is injurious to land, it is in the manner just mentioned,---in imparting additional health and vigor to the cotton plant, or to whatever else it is applied, and thereby enabling it to take up more nourishment from the soil than it otherwise would. I do not believe, if it is properly applied, that it possesses in itself any property injurious to the land, but its effect is indirect instead of direct. I have all the land on which I used it last year guanoed this year, and I discover no difference between it and the rest of the field, which was guanoed for the first time, this year. The course I expect to pursue is not to apply it to the same land longer than one or two years, as I have more than twice as much cleared and under fence as I can plant in corn and cotton.

In estimating the profit on the use of guano, my reason for not including its preparation, the application of it, or the picking out the additional quantity of cotten, is simply this: that it is all performed by the same number of hands, &c., as it would have taken to have made a crop without it. It is the amount of interest alone which the planter makes on the capital he has invested in land, negroes, mules and fixtures for the making of cotton, that is to be taken into consideration, and if he has more clear money at the end of the year by using guano, than he has by not using it, the extra amount of labor is too trifling to be taken into account. Of course, the interest of the purchase money, and the freight, commissions, &c., on the additional quantity of cotton must be added to the cost. The extra bagging, rope and twine almost pay for themselves, as no allowance is made for tare in this State. I have often been asked, if I regarded guano as better than cotton seed, or stable manure, and my answer has always been, No; but then those of us who plant such lands in corn as must be manured pretty well to give us provisions for plantation purposes, and have to cultivate a good portion of land in cotton, which will give but a poor return without manure, cannot make enough for both corn and cotton.

I hope I properly appreciate the importance of making manure on our plantations, but I believe it can be made to profit only to the extent of keeping our stables, cow, sheep and hog pens, &c., well and timely littered. The deficiency, whatever there may be, I think best to supply with guano, at least so long as we can get it at $55 per ton. Very respectfully,

J. M. DANTZLER.

St. Mathews, S. C., Nov., 1854.

What the Farmer Most Needs.

It is not a college endowed by the state, says a cotempoary; it is primary schools, to prepare farmers' sons and daughters for the higher walks in science as applied to agriculture. They need organization. They want farmers clubs and neighborhood libraries of agricultural books.—They need discussion. They need more intercourse, not only in their own town and county but throughout the state and country, to see and learn what other farmers are doing, and adopt them. This is the greatest need of farmers. They need to become satisfied with their vocation; to get rid of the prevailing notion tht farming is necessarily an unmental employment; that is, that the farmer has no occasion to think; has no occasion for education, and never can become wealthy or what the world would call repectable, while engaged in the culture of the earth, and therefore he seeks the first opportunity to escape from an avocation placed under ban not only by all others, but his own class also. The great need of the farmer is that he shall declare himself independent of all other classes; at least more so than they are of him, and of course he is entitled to engage in any other calling whatever and if he is a man of toil, that is no reason why he should not be a man of intellect. The great need of the farmer is organization, and this must be accomplished by a few self-sacrificing men who will undertake the labor of establishing and maintaining farmers' clubs in every neighborhood. Farmers need to drop politics, and take up agriculture. They must talk, read and think, and they will be sure to act or their children will act for them.—*Exchange.*

One of the German Almanacs remarks that "a young girl is a fishing rod—the eyes are the hook, the smile is the bait, the lover is the gudgeon, and marriage the butter in which he is fried."

In Russia all bachelors are taxed for the support of single dimity, after it has reached the age of thirty-five; the result is there are few of either institution in that country.

Sowing Grass Seed.

We have frequent enquiries as to the quantity of seed to be sown per acre. The following article from Sanford Howard, Esq., of the Boston Cultivator, answers the general enquiries which are made:

"A good mixture of grasses for hay, and the proper quantity for one acre, on soils of medium dryness is the following:

Red Clover	8 lbs. or 4 qts.
Herds grass, or timothy	8 qts.
Red-top	1 bushel.

"In some instances clover is sown chiefly as an improver of the soil, and it is best under these circumstances to sow no grass seeds with it, but to increase the quantity of clover seed to twelve or fourteen pounds to the acre. Where the land is unfavorable to clover, that seed should be omitted, and herds grass increased to twelve quarts and the red top to five pecks to the acre. Clover, being biennial, dies out more or less after the first year, and the space it occupied is filled by the other grasses.

For pastures on soils of medium quality and tolerable dryness, the following mixture has been found to succeed well:

Red clover	2 qts.
White clover	2 qts.
Kentucky blue grass	2 qts.
Red-top	2 pks.
Herds grass	1 bush.

"The red clover should be omitted on wet land, and the red top increased."

Cure for Dyspepsia.—Take a handful of the inside bark of the butternut tree, and a handful of hops—put them into one and a half gallons of water and boil it down to five quarts—strain it and add a handful of grated radish roots, and two spoonfuls of grated mustard—steep one hour slowly—add one and a half gills of molasses, and yeast sufficient to make it ferment—when fermentation begins, bottle tight, putting into each bottle one teaspoonful of the new scales of iron from an anvil. Dose—one-half of a tumblerful three times a day.—A. D. Fish.

[*Northern Farmer.*

Litchfield, N. Y.

Prescription for Consumption by an Indian Doctor.—One lb. of black cherry bark, one do. of black elder do., one do. of slippery elm do., eight ounces of bitter sweet roots, four do. of milk weed do., four do. of white pond lily do., four do. of red clove do., one lb. sarsaparilla do., 12 ounces of nerve do., one gill of tar. Put them into a brass kettle and cover them with water. Boil down to four quarts, strain clean and add one lb. of loaf sugar, and pint of rum. Bottle and cork tight. Dose one gill before each meal.—A. D. Fish.—*Northern Farmer.*

Baked Beets.—A good housewife assures us that the mode of cooking beets herein described, is preferable to all others:

"Beet root cannot be too much recommended to the notice of mankind, as a cheap and salubrious substitute for the now failing and diseased potato. Hitherto the red kind has been only used in England as a pickle, or as a garnish for salad; even the few who dress it, generally boil it, by which process the rich juice is lost, and the root consequently rendered less nutritious by the quantity of water it imbibes, as well as by parting with the native syrup, of which it is thus forcibly deprived; it is, therefore, stronger recommended to bake instead of boiling them, when they will be found to afford a delicious and wholesome food. This is not an untried novelty, for both red and white beet root are extensively used on the continent; in Italy, particularly, they are carried about hot from the oven twice a day, and sold publicly in the streets; thus they are purchased by all classes of people, and give to thousands, with bread, salt, pepper and butter, a satisfactory meal. There are few purposes for which baked, or even roasted or fried beet root, would not be found preferable to boiled."

From the Granate Farmer.

Artificial Manure.

Mr. Editor:—Under this caption, in your paper of the 13th inst., you give us a "Piermont farmer's" method of preparing an artificial manure, which he calls *Urate*. I have no doubt but such a preparation possesses considerable manurial value; but think he made quite a mistake in mixing urin with unleached ashes. A large portion of the value of urin when used as manure, is due to the amount of ammonia it contains; and the mixing it with house ashes or lime, will surely expel the ammonia of the urine.

Hen manure contains a large percentage of ammonia, yet farmers frequently mix it with ashes, to drop in the hills of corn &c. This process expels the most valuable portion of the droppings of the fowls. The value of Peruvian guano is always estimated by the quantity of ammonia it contains; and that farmer would be very unwise, who should expel this portion of his dear bought guano, by mixing it with lime or ashes.

I do not readily perceive what advantage that "Farmer" could derive from the use of "four bushels of common sand," in his compost heap. Had he used, instead, the same quantity of good swamp muck, or fine charcoal dust, either of which would have been a better application to his "poverty stricken soil," and a much more efficient agent for retaining some portion of the ammonia expelled by the ashes, it would have been better B

Jan. 71th.

Keeping Milk from Souring.

Milk is a compound substance, made up of a mixture of oil, butter, sugar, caseine, curd, and water. If allowed to stand still, the oily matter will rise to the top in the form of cream. There is a little free alkali—soda—in the water of all sweet milk, and without this soda the water will not have the power to keep the curd or caesine dissolved. The sugar of the milk is also dissolved in the water. If the sugar can

get access to the air it is constantly inclined to change the acid—lactic acid—just as sweetened water changes to vinegar, when exposed to the air, and we can see just why milk curdles, and how it may be kept sweet.

We all know that acid destroys or neutralizes the effects of alkalies—such as soda, potash, lime, &c. As before stated, when the milk is new, there is some free soda in it, but when some acid is formed from the sugar, this acid neutralizes the soda, and the water without the soda cannot dissolve the caseine, but it seperates into a mass of curd.

Those who get milk once a day should divide it into several portions, each to be kept undisturbed till wanted for use.

The second method is, put into the new milk a little extra soda to neutralize the acid as it is formed.

A bit of soda as large as a marrowfat pea, to a quart of milk, will not injure the flavor or quality, and will keep it sweet a day or two longer than without.

It is well known that a heavy thunder shower will very often render the milk speedily sour. This may be effected in two ways; the agitation of the thunder-clap, may introduce more air into the milk, and the great amount of electricity passing through the milk, hastens the change of milk into acid. We have heard it suggested, with how much truth we cannot say, though there is some plausibility in the statement, that is less likely to be affected by thunder, if it is kept in glazed earthen ware, instead of metal, like tin pans; and also that it will keep better if the vessels are kept upon dry wooden benches or shelves.—*Far. and Visitor.*

Grape Culture and Wine Manufacture in Ohio.—The Cincinnati Gazeete contains a long and interesting article on the grape culture and wine manufacture in that vicinity. It appears that in 1846 there were 83 vineyards in the neighborhood of Cincinnati, containing 248 acres under cultivation, and 114 bearing, and although the crop the preceding years was but a partial one, twenty-four thousand gallons was the yield. In 1852, twelve hundred acres were in cultivation, seven hundred and fifty bearing; the annual yield was supposed to be five hundred thousand gallons, and the value of sparkling wine alone, $175,000. A bushel of grapes will make from three to three-and-a-half gallons of juice. Mr. Buchanan commenced planting his vineyard in 1843; in 1850, from three acres he realized, besides the cuttings, 1,640 gallons of wine. In 1853 he obtained from five acres, 4,326 gallons, or 847 gallons per acre. In particalar spots there have been obtained 800 gallons from an acre, but 650 gallons is considered a large yield. The demand for Catawba wine is far ahead of the supply, and the quality is constantly being improved, both by the cultivators and those who prepare it for market.

To cure Chilblains.—Let a person, two or three times a week in the cold months, immediately before getting into his bed, wash his feet in salt and water in a milk warm state, wiping them very dry. This I write on experience, and with assurance of its benefit; and it would be of service to the public after trial of it to communicate its success, with or without a name or signature, through your useful publication.

Honey Cake, No. 1.—Three quarters of a pound of butter, three quarters of a pound of sugar, six eggs, two pounds of flour, one table spoonful of ground cinnamon, half a gill of cream, one quart of honey, one table spoonful of dissolved salæratus. Beat the butter and sugar to a cream; beat the eggs and stir in with the flour cinnamon, cream and honey. Beat the whole for ten minuts, then stir in the salæratus. Line your pan with several thicknesses of paper well buttered; pour in the mixture, and bake it in a slow oven.

Honey Cake, No. 2.—Half a pound of sugar, half a pound of butter, one pint of honey, one table spoonful cinnamon, one teaspoonful of nutmeg, as much flour as will form a dough. Stir the butter and sugar together, add the nutmeg, cinnamon and honey, and enough flour to form a dough. Knead it well, roll it out in sheets, cut it in cakes with a cake cutter or the rim of a tumbler, place them on tins, and bake them in a moderatly hot oven. Before you set them in the oven, wash them over with a little honey and water mixed in equal quantities.—*National Cook Book.*

Valuable Information for Rice Planters.

We publish from *Miller's Almanac* the subjoined article on the estimate of the daily labor of negroes, from the pen of Chas. E. Rowane, Esq., a member of the South Carolina Agricultural Society:

Ditching.—In ditching, much depends upon the nature of the ground. In old rice fields, free from roots and stumps, the task for an able bodied negro man, is 600 cubic feet; but he cannot do as much in canals.

Ditching is much retarded by gravel and iron mould, as well as by roots and stumps. When these obstacles occur, no regular task can be assigned. If he excavates three or four hundred feet, he will do well. Where large cypress stumps are met with, the best plan is to select such negro men for cutting them out as are most expert with the axe, and will work without being closely watched. A very large cypress stump will take one or two days work. In ditching, it is advisable to work in gangs of six

or eight, in a given distance, consisting of men and women. A woman can do nearly as much as a man. While the negro man is handling the spade, or the axe, she can always find employment in hauling back the excavated earth upon the margin, and if necessity requires, she can make use of the spade to great advantage. All ditches ought to be dug with a great slant, making the upper width nearly double the width of the bottom.

Making Bank.—In making bank, it will take one or two less in number than the same length in ditching. Where the soil is stiff clay, and the distance of the margin 20 feet, it will take the full complement to have the bank well made and trimmed properly In making the bank, every chip and root ought to be picked out, and nothing but the solid earth put upon it; the clods chopped fine, will pulverize, consolidate and cement much quicker than if thrown on promiscuously. In old rice land, free from roots and stumps, there is no necessity to make a centre ditch, as the basis for the bank turned up with a hoe answers every purpose. In rooty land, a centre ditch should always be made.

Turning up land with a Hoe.—A negro man, or woman can, in light rice land of a deep mould, turn up one quarter of an acre, and do it well; but in a stiff, tenacious clay, it will require a third more labor.

Listing Ground.—In listing corn, cotton or potatoe land, half an acre is the task for each hand; but in old pasture ground, which is always stiff, and bound with roots of grass, weeds, &c., a quarter of an acre is as much as he can do; and even then, it is hard work. The plow would much more effectually operate on such land; where it is of a light and sandy nature, half an acre can be accomplished in listing.

Bedding up.—The task in ridging or bedding up, is generally a quarter and a half, but, as expressed above, in pasture land where the texture is close, he will do well if he does one quarter. In old pasture ground, matted with grass roots, he cannot accomplish it, to do it properly.

In ridging potato beds, two negroes are always employed in one quarter of an acre.

Trenching Rice.—Each negro man can trench half an acre of rice land, containing 70 and 80 rows in one quarter, and each negro woman covers what the man trenches. In planting rice, the more compact your gang is the better. A gang consisting of forty workers, may be divided into two parts, allotting to each two sowers, nine trenchers and nine coverers, in which case each gang would plant five acres.

Hoeing Corn, Cotton and Potatoes.—In hoeing corn, cotton and potatoes, the usual task is half an acre; but if neglected in the first hoeing, will find it difficult to overcome the grass in the succeeding ones, particularly cotton and potatoes, which must be kept very clean—having once suffered, the plants never recover, to yield as much as they would, had they been kept clear of grass. On the appearrance of the potato above ground, it is advisable to hand-pick the beds of grass, and continue doing so, until the plants are well advanced, and commence running, when the hoe can, with propriety be applied, and continue to be kept as clean as possible, until the beds are covered by the vines. So with cotton, early neglect will cripple the plant, and prevent its producing much.

Hoeing Rice.—In hoeing rice in its early stage, much depends upon the judicious application of water, to destroy grass; improperly applied, it encourages it and increases the labor of the negroe; on the contrary, he can always get through half an acre with ease during the season. In the first hoeing on clay land, less than three negroes to the acre cannot perform their work as it should be done, and great care taken to remove the clods from the young rice which would otherwise be much injured. In the third and lasst hoeing, every spear of grass ought to be pulled up by the roots, to allow the young shoots to come forth freely; at which time the water ought to be applied and kept on until the crop is harvested,

The point flowing is so often injudiciously used, that it is a question whether more harm than good does not result from it; but it is highly advantageous, when due care is observed.

Harvesting Rice.—About a week or ten days before you begin to harvest rice, draw off the water from your fields. In order to judge when rice is fit to cut, examine the lower part of the ear; if there remain one or two grains of a greenish cast, the rice is then in a fit state to apply the sickle. Negro drivers, in general, allow it to remain until all the grains have turned yellow, in which case the crop ripens too fast, and you cannot keep pace with it in cutting; much is thereby lost in shelling. Avoid, if possible, stacking rice in the field; whole crops are sometimes lost by unforeseen accidents: have it brought home, and put in stacks of eight feet diameter, and about 18 or 20 in length, 8 or 10 feet high. Be careful in stacking, to put away by itself all light and damaged rice.

Ricking Rice.—In ricking rice, great care ought to be observed to select all sheaves that

are in the least injured by dampness, and put away in small stacks, with any light rice you may have. The propriety of the length of a rick depends upon the number of negroes you work; so that in threshing, the rick may not be too long exposed to the weather. In a gang of 25 or 30 workers, it is advisable to make them about 20 feet long, 12 feet wide, carried up straight to about 6 feet, then slant off gradually carrying it up to about 18 or 20 feet high; lay the sheaves all one way, and close. Such a rick, if solid, good rice, will produce from 20 to 25 barrels of clean rice, of 600 cwt. each barrel. Upon the top of each rick, have a heavy pole or rail, suspended on each side by a grape vine, under which place a quantity of straw to protect the rice from the weather. Rice should not be put into large ricks, until it has had about three weeks of the sun, otherwise it may be apt to mow-burn.

Threshing Rice.—Six hundred sheaves of rice is the general task for a negro man, and five hundred for a negro woman, which can be done with ease; after which the straw should be well shaken and examined by the driver, before it is carried to the general heap.

Making Rice Barrels.—Three barrels a day is the task for a cooper, and in making half barrels, four a day. The length of a stave three feet two inches; and two feet across the head. Such a barrel will hold ten bushels of clean rice.

Hoop Poles.—Where hoop poles are plentiful, a negro can with ease cut one hundred and bring them home, where the distance is not too great.

Splitting Staves.—In splitting staves, four hands are generally sent out, and employed thus: two to cut down and cross-cut the tree to the length of the stave wanted; one to bolt; and the fourth negro is employed in splitting. Five hundred is the task per day. The second day another negro is sent to draw the staves split the day before; his task is 300. The staves being split, they are then put into piles of four or five hundred, to season.

Splitting Barrel Heading.—The same number of hands are employed in splitting heads for barrels. The task for splitting per day is 250 pieces, of two pieces to each barrel head, and 150 in drawing and trimming for one cooper per day. If more than two to the head, the task is 200. They ought to be drawn immediately as they are split, while the wood is green.

Splitting Puncheons.—Two hundred and fifty broad puncheons, 4 and 5 feet in length, is the task for a negro to split per day; such as would answer for a barn or negro house.

Splitting Shingles.—In splitting shingles 22 inches long, four hands are sent out, as above stated—two to cut down the tree and cross-cut the length; one to bolt, and the fourth to split 1,000. The next day a negro will draw 500 per day, as his task. In splitting for negro houses, he will split 700 broad, heavy cypress shingles, 2½ feet in length. In drawing 400 is the day's work.

Squarring Timber.—A negro carpenter can cut down the tree and square one hundred feet per day, with ease.

Making Worm Fences.—The rails being brought to the spot and every thing ready, the bushes and weeds removed, a negro man and woman can put, stake and rider, one hundred panels.

Post and Rail.—Four negroes can put up 35 or 40 panels of post and rail fence per day; dig holes between two and three feet deep, and put down the posts, properly rammed, at a distance of nine feet from each other. The rails to be ten feet long, to allow a good lap or hold in the mortice.

A negro carpenter can make 60 mortices per day in the post and rail fence.

Splitting Rails.—One hundred rails of 12 feet long and heavy, is the day's work of an able bodied negro man.

Cutting Wood.—A negro man can cut for his task one cord of oak wood, 4 feet long. The cord, when piled and well filled in, to be 8 feet long and 4 feet high.

To keep Beans, English Peas, &c., for seed.

Messrs. Editors—After drying them thoroughly, put them in glass bottles, or, if in large quantities, in jugs of earthen or stone ware; add to a common quart bottle a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine—a gallon jug does not require much more. *Keep it tightly corked* and the atmosphere within is fatal to all insects. A lump of gum camphor is as good as the spirits of turpentine. Wm. N. White.

Southern Cultivator.]

Remarks.—We have known sulphur and quick lime used for the same purpose. We have practiced scalding successfully before sunning the beans—not to remain in the hot water (enough to cover them) more than one minute.—Ed. F. & P.

You can raise fine calves on sour milk or whey after they are a few weeks old; when young they never should be fed on cold drink.

Zeno excelled in phylosophy. Strive that you may excel in Agriculture.

Make the most of everything.

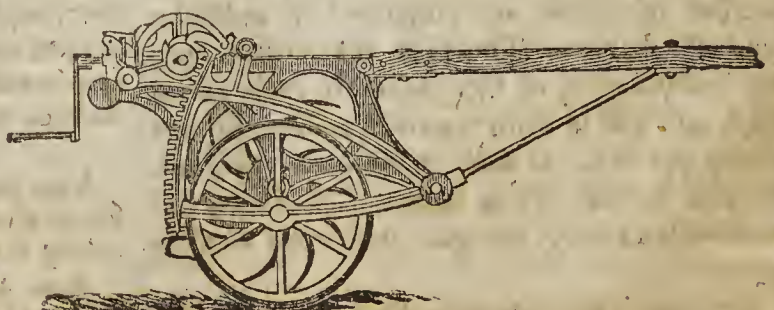
[Samuelson's Rotary Digger.—Fig. 1.]

Samuelson's Rotary Digger.

Jud ing from the determ ned manner in which farmers and agricultural implement makers have adhere', or so many centuries, to that p etical antique, —but most superficial and uncerviccable contrivance, the plow, it might very naturally be assumed, that there was some virtue in this sy tem of this shallow paring and sl cing the soil. It was only when some superior observer hinted at the vast diff rence between the produc of the market-gardner's spade-worked patch, and that of the old fash oned plow-furrowed farm, that the plow was laid open to discussion. Then came experimental competition, showing that altho', inch for inch, spade labor was triumphant, yet the productive gain was more than swallowed up by the cost of so much manual labor. So we went on year by year, giving premiums for curious intricacies of plows; and we still kept on turning over sheets of earth of some five inches thick, to be turned back again a few months later, or, at the best, to be tortured into something like tilth, by cross plowing, rolling, grubbing, or harrowing.— Then we had unwieldy steam-plows, some with the weighty engine going along with the massive plowing machinery, and producing deeper ruts with its wheels, than it furrowed out with its share; or we se a couple of engines, one on each side of a field, and hauled a plow backward and forward by an interme diate chain.

All this was very wrong. If a human being to every spade did not pay, the matter was not much mended by the more complex applications of steam power to the plowing machine. The disintegrating principle was undoubtedly right; but steam was harnessed to it prematurely. Now, we have another and more satisfactory looking scheme, in Mr. Samuelson's horse power diggger, which we here engrave as in operation. This machine, which is the invention of Mr. B. Samuelson, of the Britannia Works, Banbury, consists of a simple frame, running on a couple of wheels, and resembling an ordinary field roller. The weight and friction combined, s the aparatus is trav rsed over the land, causes a series of digging forks or prongs to dig into the earth and thus with five or six horses, according to the state of the soil under operation, two men are enabled to work down to something like eight or ten inches over a width of three feet, thoroughly pulverizing the soil, to the extent of five or six acres a day.

The perspective sketch, fig. 1, will give some idea of the appearance of the digger in the field; and the diagram, fig. 2, will serve to elucidate its mechanical details. There is certainly very little mechanism about it. The running wheels are merely for carrying the apparatus at the proper level; and as the rotating forks penetrate into the earth, their depth of entrance is adjusted by a handle geared to a pinion,



[Samuelson's Rotary Digger.—Fig. 2.]

working in a segmental toothed-rack on the framework Perhaps it would be better to call it a forking machine, as the digging axle carries a series of independent pronged bosses, twelve teeth in each. These prongs are of comparatively slender steel, and they are so curved and shaped as to penetrate the soil pretty freely, by the mere weight of the framing. As the prongs come round they bring up the soil, in a well pulverized and mixed state, like the back water from a paddle wheel; and, to keep them well cleared of earth, each circle of prongs works between a corresponding set of stationary clearing teeth on the frame. In the particular machine to which we refer, there are seven of these sets of prongs, each six inches apart on their axle; the iron bosses are twelve inches in diameter, and four or five inches in width, the teeth being ten inches long. These bosses are put together in halves with bolts, so as to fasten the teeth securely; and the bosses are loose heavy washers, for facilitating the working and cleansing of the machine.

In a late trial near Banbury, the ground was a friable calcarious loam, pretty stony, and fallow, after an autumnal plowing, with here and there some conch grass upon it. After the passage of the machine, the pedestrian sank in the soil, as he walked, up to two or three inches; and on testing it with a walking stick, it showed a looseness down to eight or nine inches. In one case, five and a half acres were thus forked with six horses, in 6¾ hours. Owing to the simplicity of its construction, it is not so expensive as to be beyond the reach of the occupier of farms of medium size; indeed it is already coming into very general use in England, and has been introduced into Scotland by the Messrs. Wilson of Berwick. The Royal Agricultural Society of England, at their recent meeting at Gloucester, acknowledged its merits by the award of their silver medal.—*People's Journal.*

Eleventh Agricultural Meeting,

At the State House, Tuesday Evening, March 28, '54

Subject,—*Sheep—can they be advantageously kept on our farms? If so, what are the best kinds for this purpose?*

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Sprague, of Duxbury, and Mr. Harvey Dodge, of Sutton, was called on to preside.

Mr. Howard, of the *Cultivator*, was called on by the Chairman to open the discussion. Mr. Howard said he considered the matter of keeping sheep one of the most important subjects which had been discussed here this winter. We keep live stock in this section of the country as a matter of necessity, as a general thing in order to procure our milk, butter, cheese, &c.; but if stock is to be kept to turn off from our farms in the shape of meat, there are some sections where sheep can be made more profitable than any other live stock, for this reason—they can live where other animals cannot; they can live on poor soil, of which we have large quantities. On such lands mutton can be made cheaper than beef. Our situation is approximating continually to that of the old countries in Europe, our population is increasing in numbers and density, and it is an important question how it can be fed. In England, the best mode of accomplishing this object absorbs the attention of the farmers, and they keep a great number of sheep. Mutton is eaten there in large quantities; and it is eaten more in this country than formerly. Therefore the object with us in Massachusetts, is rather to raise mutton than wool. As to varieties, it is uncertain which is most profitable, but considering the great demand for meat, some of the English mutton breeds would be more profitable than the Spanish breeds. Of the English varieties, the Leicester, South Down and Cottswold are the best. The Leicesters have demonstrated a very important point—the production of a well-defined and established breed, by crossing, and they improve every other long-haired breed in England or Europe. The Cottswold are derived from the Leicester, are larger than the latter, have more and longer wool, and have a hardy nature, but are longer in arriving at maturity, and have more lean than fat meat. The South Downs, as they exist in this country, are a somewhat artificial animal. They are a close wool sheep, of comparatively small size, active, will graze on short pastures where larger animals would hardly live, and are remarkable for the richness of their meat. There is an improved South Down breed, which does not mature quite so early as the Leicester—perhaps it is a year longer in maturing. In the English markets it brings two cents a pound more than any other kind of mutton. In time it may be made as profitable here, It is not so active as the old South Down, and perhaps the quality of the meat has deteriorated a little, still, it is far superior to any other kind of sheep. The Spanish sheep, as a variety for wool, are unquestionably the most profitable we have any account of in the world. When properly bred, they become as hardy as native sheep. They are not so good mutton sheep, either in quality or in tendency to mutton, as the other varities mentioned; but there is no sheep that will produce so many pounds of wool in proportion to the weight of the carcass, as the Spanish Merino. It is an original breed, and there is good reason to believe that it is the same variety which was fostered by the agriculturists of Rome. Within the last hundred years several branch breeds have sprung from it. First, the Saxony, which has a very fine wool. Another is the French Merino, a mixture of three or four Spanish varieties, but very uncertain in its progeny. A handsome, compact ewe will turn out a lamb, the very opposite of what is desired. They have been introduced into this country as a matter of speculation, which has turned out very profitably for the speculators, but whether to the benefit of the farmer is another question. The speaker was not cognizant of any systematic experiments with his breed, but has been informed by a person who had compared them with the old Spanish stock, that they were less profitable. Another variety is called the Silesian, which is larger in size than the best Merinos of Vermont, but of remarkably symmetry and beauty, with the thickest and evenest fleeces, second only in quality to the

Saxony. It is said they turn off the largest amount of wool in proportion to the carcass, of any variety. They are worthy of further trial. We see in all this, the necessity of experiment in regard to breeds, in order to give the farmer accurate knowledge in regard to the best varieties for his use.

Mr. Flint, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture mentioned a variety called the Oxfordshire Downs, produced by judicious crossing, by an English gentleman. The cross is Leicester and Cottswold. They are of very handsome form, and promise to become a valuable variety.—Wool, he further remarked, can be raised cheaper at the West, where the flocks have vast prairies to roam over, than it can here, and our farmers cannot compete on this article, while in raising mutton for the market we have the advantage. Therefore it is now tho object to raise the latter. For this purpose the South Down and crosses are probably the best.

Col. Newell of Essex, said he had seen some of the Oxfordshire Downs, which were in the possession of Mr. Fay, of Lynn. They are very superior sheep, and Mr. Fay considers them preferable to any other variety. They are a cross of the Leicester and South Downs. The speaker said there were some full blood South Downs in his neighborhood which were certainly very good sheep, large, and wool of very good quality, and they raise up a great many lambs. The Leicesters come to maturity earlier than any other sheep, but whether they are the best sheep for us, is doubtful. They are not so good for wool, and the lambs the first year are worth but very little.

The Chairman mentioned the manner of feeding sheep pursued bp Mr. Lawton, Great Barrington, in the western part of the State. He keeps 800 sheep, and feeds them one quart of corn each, per day, and all at one time.

Mr. Russell, of Pittsfield, said he had noticed that the half blood Merinos did not produce so large lambs as the full bloods, but they were very fat—fatter than any other he knew of. He was firmly of the opinion that a cross of the French Merino with the South Down, would produce a most profitable variety. He saw a lot of about thirty full blood French Merinos on the Hudson river last fall, which were fine sheep, and would probably weigh 140 lbs. each, per live carcass. They were not fine wooled generally, but he picked out six or eight from the lot which had very fine wool. The wool on any of them was fine enough for de laines. He thought a cross of them with the South Downs or "old-fashioned" or native stock, would be successful, but should give the preference to the "old-fashioned" on one or two accounts; one is that their lambs mature quicker. He also spoke very favorably of Silesians, as yielding a long, fine and compact fleece, and possessing a very handsome form. A year old sheep of half blood French Merinos, shorn at Hinsdale, last year, yielded 4 lbs., 13 ounces of wool, which sold for 60 cents per lb. The animal weighed only 44 lbs.

What does it cost to Fence.—The amount of capital employed in the construction and repair of the wooden fences in the United States, would be deemed febulous, were not the estimates founded on statistical facts, which admit of no dispute. Burknap, a well known agricultural writer, says: "Strange as it may seem, the greatest investment in this country, the most costly production of human industry, is the common fences, which divides the fields from the highways, and separate them from each other. No man dreams that when compared with the outlay of these unpretending monuments of art, our cities and our towns, with all their wealth, are left far behind. You will scarcely believe me when I say that the fences of this couutry cost more than twenty times the amount of specie that is in it."

[*Farmer and Visitor.*

Saleratus.—What is seleratus? Wood is burned to ashes; ashes are lixivated—ley is the result. Ley is evaporated by boiling—black salts is the residuum. The salts undergo purification by fire, and the potash of commerce is obtained. By another process we change potash into pearlash.

Now put these in sacks, and place them over a distillery wash tub, where the fermentation evolves carbonic acid gas and the pearlash absorbs it and is rendered solid; the product being heavier, dryer and whiter than the pearlash. It is now saleratus.

How much salts of ley, and carbonic acid a human stomach can bear and remain healthy, is a question for a saleratus eater.

From the Southern Cultivator.

Cure for Rheumatism, &c.

* * * * * * * *

In the close of my article referred to, I gave the public what I conceived to be a sovereign remedy for Sciatic and Rheumatic pains, and remarked that I would correspond with any wishing to try the remedy privately. This pledge, if I redeem, will prove an arduous task. For I have received letters of enquiry from divers parts of the States; and I should like to answer them by the wholesale, through the medium of your journal, if you can sympathize with one who has inadvertently got into such a dilemma. They all wish a more minute description of the vine, with further directions, whether or not it will cure cases of long standing, and whether it has invariably to be applied to the feet, no matter what part of the system is attacked, &c., &c, These and various other inquiries are being made by the many who are the unfortunate victims of these painful diseases, and since it does not grow in these diggin's, there are many who wish to be referred to some one where it does grow, who could show or send a specimen by mail. If I do so, and those to whom I refer should consider it assuming, or an intrusion, I beg pardon. It has been near fifteen years since I have seen it growing. I

have travelled 300 miles N. E., and near 600 S. W. from here, and have frequently looked for it, and never saw any, though it was in the winter season, when I would be the less likely to see it than in the summer. I never have heard of any being seen west of Wetumpka, Ala. I presume it can be found almost any where east of the Coosa river. I know it grows abundantly on and near some streams in Randolph and Chambers counties, Ala., particularly on the Weadka Creek, which empties into the Chattahoochee river between Vernon and West Point. It also grows in Heard, Troup, Bibb, Monroe and Jones counties, in Georgia. Wm. C. Williamson, of Louino, Randolph county, Geo., or John McLain, of Fredonia, Chambers county, Alabama, could show it to any person, or if requested, could next summer forward a specimen to the *Cultivator* Office, which could be exhibited engraved. Here I will inform one inquirer, who wished to have some sent to him—my experience is it must be applied fresh. I once brought some here in liquor from Alabama, a distance of 300 miles, when it became so much impaired it would not draw a blister at all. And to the sufferer who sues for relief in this way, let me say, you would do well to summon up all the fortitude you can rake and scrape, as it will doubtless be taxed much beyond your anticipation. I knew a negro woman whose owners would or could not control her, who had it applied to both her feet; she became so inveterate she took it off and put her feet in cold water. Fortunately for her, the blisters came after, and she was cured; but I regarded that as almost accidental, as the directions were not complied with. I do not talk thus to deter any, but there are many who are so chicken-hearted, and possess such a peculiar temperament that it becomes necessary for them to screw themselves up to the sticking point, in order to meet the crisis, Cæsar-like. Tell it not in Gath. It is almost like standing on fire all the time it is drawing. It should stay on from six to twelve hours, and then taken off, when it will be perhaps twelve hours more, or longer, before the blister will be ready to clip; up to this time it will be painful. Then treat it as any other blister.

This vine is not confined to low lands, but grows most abundantly near streams, delighting to run along fences, sometimes perhaps several yards; it will also run up bushes upwards of ten feet, and cluster and twine about them similar to a grape vine, I never saw any run up a tree. A recent bloom shows a lively and beautiful appearence, and when dry in the fall presents a fuzzy, brown appearance, near the shape and size of a pine burr, which contains the seed, similar to rhubarb seed. The leaves are broad, oblong, smooth on the surface and edge, Stem of an old, thrifty vine at the ground perhaps as large as your finger. The roots are few, white, running straight downward very deep, generally as large near the surface as a goose-quill, resembling nothing so much as the Sampson snake-root.

Directions.—Take of the bruised root a small quantity, and put it on a piece of leather or colewort leaf, about the size of a half dollar, and let it remain from six to twelve hours. Dampen it a little when it becomes dry, but not enough to make it run, as it will take all the skin off where it goes. It should invariably be put on the feet, no matter what part is affected. If only one side is attacked, apply only to one foot; otherwise to both. I assert, from the history of my experience in the matter, it will cure both recent and cases of long standing, chronic and inflammatory, where it is not the consequence of poisoning drugs. Were it not for protracting this article, to the exclusion of something more interesting to the many, I would give the outlines of a few cases; but propriety forbids. One may suffice. About the year 1825, my father then living in Bibb co., Geo., had a valuable young negro man taken with rheumatic pains, which in a few months affected him so bad, and he was in so much pain continually, that he never pretanded to leave his cabin. He from the first had the best medical attendance that could be procured. His sufferings became intensely severe, and he was almost reduced to despair. At length father heard of an old man going about, at that time operating in an adjacent county, who professed to cure such cases, and made no other pretensions. He cured for $25, and had nothing if he failed. He was sent for and engaged upon those terms. He went out on father's land and procured the roots, and made the application, and no less remarkable than true, the boy was enabled to go to plowing before he could walk barefoot upon his blistered feet. He has ever remained healthy, and he is still in the family, and perfectly sound, so far as pains are concerned. The application should be moistened with vinegar. I apprehend cattle destroy this vine, where they eat out the range, One enquirer informs me his is a complicated case of five years standing, of neuralgia and rheumatism, occasioned by taking mercury during a protrac-

ted spell of sickness. The voice of suffering humanity verging on despair is importunate, and very loth to "give up the ship"—hoping perchance there may be some "balm in Gilead." I would recommend him to try this remedy, and repeat the application twice, and even thrice, if relief is not sooner obtained.

A. T. P.

Cadaretta P. O., January, 1855.

Remarks.—Our journal is scarcely the proper medium for communications of this character—yet, as considerable interest has been manifested in the specific of our correspondent, and as we would not willingly neglect an opportunity of benefitting suffering humanity, we cheerfully give it place. We were, however, obliged to omit the onslaught of our friend upon the mercurial remedies of "old school" physicians; for the obvious reason that it would, if published, give riso to an endless amount of discussion on a subject with which we, as agriculturists, have no concern.—Eds.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Agricultural Convention---The late Governor Johnson.

Mr. Editor:—It has been my desire for a year—ever since I commenced planting, to do something for the noble and important as well as interesting science of Agriculture; and I have been disposed to give you now and then a communication upon the subject, but I have, whether fortunately or unfortunately for the cause of Agriculture, will not undertake to say, (but my impression is really that it is a fortunate thing for the science,) but it is certainly very unfortunate for me individually—I allude to a sprained hand, and a very painful one, too, and one which has been hurting me for a twelve month or more—my right hand—and I have avoided writing whenever I could well do so. But if I were so sound as an American dollar, I would not flatter myself that I could interest, please, or instruct the readers of your indispensable and much valued monthly. My esteemed and talented friend, Broomsedge, is a ready, gifted and accomplished writer, and I reckon his contributions will suffice for himself and myself.

My object in addressing you more particularly than any thing, in fact all things else, is to inform you that I endorse the sentiment contained in your valued monthly, and subscribe heartily to the same—I mean the call of an Agricultural Convention in South Carolina. I have long since felt not only the importance of the measure, but the imperative demands of the crisis, for some such an association. I say the subject and the times cry loudly, proclaim in language not to be mistaken, (if we would take care of ourselves or our interest, or even preserve our identity as an Agricultural community,) for some demonstration on the part of planters to be made, and that early. There is at present no association of Planters in my District, (Union,) but I want to make an effort to have a representation in the approaching Convention. The last society we had was presided over by the beloved, venerated and gifted Gov. Johnson. The subject of Agriculture found a lodgement and an abiding one, in his noble and capacious heart. But he has gone to his reward, and we must try and emulate his praiseworthy deeds and rival his renown—his extentended and much deserved fame. I regarded him with more than filial affection, and have often tried to catch the Agricultural fire—fresh and pure from his mighty lips. I was with him several weeks last summer—as has been my custom to visit him at least once a year—to pay my homage at the shrine of intellectual greatness, and to gather wisdom from a true source. Information such as I needed upon many subjects of interest and among them, the chief, I might add, the ever interesting and glorious pursuit—Agriculture. The venerable and great old man spoke to me often upon his exit from time. He said he wanted rest, repose, the quiet of the grave, and seemed to speak as regularly as would a Bishop Capers. I say to you, gentlemen, go on—a glorious destiny awaits you. To the cause of Agriculture be true; to thine own selves be true, and fortune will smile upon you and you will have fame. Yea, fame spread abroad its wings, at ease, over you. Yours,

Sylvania, March 29, 1855. W. S. Dogan.

Scratches in Horses.—A correspondent asks us what he shall do to cure the "scratches" in his horse's heels. We never knew of but one remedy, and never knew that to fail, if properly tried, to wit:—Take a heaping table spoonful of powdered alum and burn it slowly. Fill a quart bottle with one part beef brine, one part alcohol, and one part urine—into which place the burned alum, and wait for the latter to dissolve thoroughly.

Wash the fetlock joints carefully with warm castile soap suds, and then bathe the parts with the above described decoction. If our friend or any of our readers will try this, they may cure this annoying and troublesome humor—and give us credit for the information accordingly. We repeat that we have tried it often, and it never fails to effect *a cure*.—*N. E. Cultivator.*

The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. VI., No. 4, : : : : : April, 1855.

Attending to the repairing of a broken down *new* Saw Mill, has so taken up our time latterly, that but a small share has been devoted to our present number. Indeed we feel much discouraged in every way, and have but little spirit to write. With the exception of bacon, a most alarming scarcity of provisions, and of food of every discription for stock prevails throughout the whole country. The weather has, since the issue of our March number, been distressingly cold, cutting off, as we believe, the peach crop, if not that of other fruit entirely. Some are of the opinion, however, that we shall even have a fair peach crop, if so then we shall in future believe in the months' and moons' protection. We think that both *wheat* and *oats* have to some extent been injured by the cold weather, and both crops now (1st of April,) are suffering for rain. Vegetation of every kind is uncommonly backward. Cattle without food and on the eve of starvation, and to cap the climax, we are about coming to the conclusion that if *we* had to depend on the income from an agricultural paper alone, for our support, in South Carolina, our own condition would not be much more enviable than that of the shadows of cattle in our State. But it is not manly to complain of either the decrees of an all-wise Providence, or of the neglect or ingratitude of man. So let us reconcile ourselves with the best possible grace to our fate, and hope for "a good time a coming."

Speaking of Saw Mills above, reminds us that several of our subscribers have requested us to present their thanks to our friend and correspondent, I. Q., for his "excellent article" on that subject, in our February number. I. Q is a practical man, and we shall be pleased to hear from him at any time, and on *any* subject on which he is so well posted as on that of Saw Mills.

The Agricultural Convention.

We beg leave to call attention to the communication of our most welcome correspondent, W. S. Dogan, on another page, and also to tender our thanks to him for "coming up to our aid." Would that every agriculturist or friend to the cause were as prompt. But this is the *only* communication that has come to hand in time for our present number. What's the matter friends? Do you give it up? Are you determined, and that from your own supineness, to be hewers of wood and drawers of water for all time? if so, *so be it;* it is unnecessary for us to say more in the advocacy of measures that you are all equally interested in.

Our correspondent says, after making some apologies for former neglect, (and we much regret the local affection and consequent pain under which he writes,) "My esteemed and talented friend Broomsedge, is a ready, gifted and accomplished writer, and I reckon his contributions will suffice for himself and myself." Not so my friend. We admit he is all you say of him, and always willing and ready to do service in the good cause, but his devotion should, instead of excusing, *encourage* others to follow his noble and most praiseworthy example. It's a free fight—pitch in. Let every one put his own shoulder to the wheel and there will be no need for calling on Hercules. But we have not set down with the intention of analysing the excellent communication of W. L. D. Our only desire is to encourage every one to act his own part, "There all the honor lies."

To the just and most deserving tribute of respect paid by our correspondent to the late venerable Governor Johnson, we subscribe with all our heart, *he was a great and a good man*, respected and beloved by all who were so fortunate as to know him. He honored us with his patronage, and the columns of our humble sheet have been graced by his contributions, but he is gone as many others of our most extricable subscribers have within the last year, and we shall rarely look on his like again. His devotion to the good cause that we have been endeavoring to prop with our broom straws were well calculated to encourage his immediate friends and neighbors to imitate his noble example. May they take him as the rule and guide to their practice. Again we would thank our friend for his devotion, his encouragement and expressions of good will to our humble self.

The Morgan Horse.

Those of our readers who advocate the raising of *good* stock instead of scrubs, are referred to the advertisement of Mr. James Creswell, in our present number. For all work the Morgan is, we believe, generally admitted not surpassed, if equalled by any other strain of horses in the United States. Mr. Creswell has sent us a hand bill, which may be seen posted in our village. As will be seen by referring to the advertisement, our Anderson stock raisers may expect Morgan's services next fall season.

The Iron Plow Stock.

Mr. Hunter, of our village, whose advertisement we have heretofore referred to, has shown to us to-day a stock made at his shop of superior workmanship, which he intends exhibiting at the Carolina Institute Fair, which commences some time in this month we understand, but have received no request to notice.

Notices of publications must stand over for the present.

An Old "Typo"

Who encloses his subscription to as for the F. & P. will accept our thanks for his good will. He says in a P. S. to his letter: "You will accept my best wishes for your success, and ever believe me a friend to the *poor* editor, proprietor, publisher, and even the poor printer devil, for I have experienced all of them." Our friend, as old Mrs. Partington would say, "has a fellow feeling in his breast."

Land in Market.

If any of our readers desiring to purchase land in the neighborhood of Old Pendleton, will call on us, we will accommodate them with the valuable tract once owned by the late venerable F. K. Huger, which contains 200 acres, and which has as good, if not the best set of buildings, taken altogether, as can be found in our District. There is not a building wanting from the dwelling house down to the hen house, including an excellent ice house, a hot house, and a dry well house, &c., &c.; but a description will not be attempted, as a purchaser would of course see for himself. Come and see, and get a better bargain than has recently been given "hereabouts."

Cotton Culture, &c.

Our Correspondent "Novice" requests us to correct editorially an error of "Broomsedge's," (January No., p. 13.) We think it best, however, to give his own words, as he gives friend B. a gentle caution on a subject he is by no means remarkable for being obnoxious to "puffing." There can surely be no impropriety in a puff, if the object is worthy of it. That Capt. Byrd's cotton seed are well deserving a favorable notice, *we* are ready, from an experiment of our own, to testify.

Through the polite attention of our friend, Col. Orr, we have received from the Patent Office, a paper of cotton seed marked "Boyds Extra Prolific," from Covington Georgia. Can Capt. Byrd inform us if they are the "Calhoun" seed?—Ed. F. & P.

Mr. Editor:—Broomsedge has made a mistake in reading my article on the culture of cotton. I thought I would not notice it, but I see the Carolina Times has published his article, and have concluded to have the mistake rectified, which you will oblige me by doing in the editorial. In the place of saying, in the November number of the F & P., that common cotton would make 70 bolls to the stalk, I said *seven* bolls. I thought your readers would discover the mistake. I should like to give Mr. Broomsedge a round on puffing cotton seed, as he is in the habit of putting down all puff, but I have not time. Novice.

Geological Text Books---Agriculture in Tennessee.

The following, which we transfer to our colums from the Southern Cultivator, will be found interesting to many of our readers just at this time. Such movements in any section are calculated to encourage others to do likewise. Would that every District in our State, and in every Southern State seeing such praiseworthy examples set before them, could profit by them; and there is nothing to prevent but the want of a few energetic men in each district to put the ball in motion.—Ed. F. & P.

D. Lee, M. D., Dear Sir:—There is a disposition in this vicinity to get up a Geological Club, and we want such books as will suit plain farmers. I know none as well calculated as yourself to advise us in this respect. You will, therefore, indulge me in calling on you for the desired information. We want the plainest and least technical books; such as will give the principles and theories of the science, and the most practical instruction.

For myself I know too little of that important science, though I have devoted, for years, much thought to nearly all the other natural sciences; and for half an age Agriculture has interested me more than any other subject; but it is certain that it can not be well understood without Geology. I am, therefore, at this late age (50) forced to become a student of that science.

While writing, permit me to give you an account of our Agricultural Society in this (Smith) county. In February last our Legislature passed a law creating an Agricultural Bureau, and providing for an organization of County Societies. During the last week in July a dinner was prepared in a grove of this vicinity, at which speeches were made on various subjects, and I made an extemporaneous talk on Agriculture. I assumed three positions:

1st. That Farmers, as a mass, are not respectable, so far as influence is concerned, and it is their own fault.

2nd. That not one farmer in our country plows deep enough.

3rd. The plan of farming, so as to wear out our lands and waste our timber, *is a sin of great magnitude*, of which our whole farming population *are guilty* before God.

Contrary to my expectations, nearly every person present (about 500) admitted the truth of all these positions.

On the last Saturday in October, we had a meeting in Rome of about 100 persons; at which two short discourses were made on Agriculture, by Esq. Montgomery and myself. At the close, 52 men became members of an Agricultural Society.

On the 4th of this month we adopted a Constitution, and on the 20th enacted By-Laws. At the last meeting we had 92 members; 65 are life members, who paid $10 in advance, and 27 are annual members, who pay $2 per annum. Thus, you see, we have $704 to begin with, and shall soon double the amount and the number of members.

You will be better prepared to appreciate our Society by a few extracts from our Constitution and By-Laws.

"Article 3. This Society shall be *perpetual*; dispensing benefits not only to its existing members and the present generation, but also to future members and generations for indefinite ages.

"Article 4. Sec. 6. This Society shall vest *all money recived for membership* in some way, so as to yield at least 6 per cent. interest per annum; in all cases the investments shall be so made as to have *real estate bound* for the sum or sums invested, so that there shall be *no possibility of loss*; and *all money so received* and invested *shall be a pecpetual fund*; the Society having no power to use it so as to diminish the principal.

"Sec. 9. Any money or property which may be donated to this Society shall be added to the perpetual fund, * * * unless otherwise directed by the donor."

BY-LAWS.

"Article 6. Section 1. Should any donation be made to this Society, so as to make a permanent fund; said fund shall be forever called by the name of the donor.

"Sec. 2. * * * * but should any donor fail to specify the objects of his gift, then this Society shall lay out the interest or profits of the donation, annually, biennially, or otherwise, in awarding premiums for Essays upon selected branches of production or the education of the laboring classes.

Sec. 3. In all cases where a series of Essays shall be called forth by a donation, the series shall be forever called by the name of the donor."

From these extracts you may learn the spirit of our Society. Our Fairs will be held at Rome, a small town on the Cumberland River.

I think that we may rightly claim that our Constitution is *multum in parvo*. What will be our permanent fund 20 years hence, we cannot guess, but it will be large, and must increase indefinitely.

There are at least four important features in our society:

1st. It is perpetual. It will last for centuries.

2nd. It can never be bankrupt, because it never can go in debt, and real estate will always be bound for the permanent fund.

3. The Society must ultimately posses a very large fund, because every new member and every donation, for ages, will increase the fund.

4th. Should we be fortunate in receiving donations, the best talent of the Union will be employed annually, for ages, in getting up and publishing to the world Essays upon Agriculture and the Education of producers.

Our members have the right spirit; we all confess our ignorance, and hence are ready to learn. Our community, old and young, will soon make a large class of students of Agriculture. I hope all the counties in the State will do likewise. Then will Education become *general, thorough and practical.*

Disjointed as this letter is, I know it will be acceptable to you. Some of us, in this section, read the *Southern Cultivator*, and know what exertions you have been making for years, to instruct, and emeliorate the productive classes; and you may regard some of the spirit and sentiments of our society as having emanated from yourself.

Could the doctrines you have so long and so forcibly urged upon the renovation of land and the diversity of products, be generally understood and practiced, what would soon be the wealth and strength of this Republic? And could our farmers and planters rightly understand their interest, they would soon respond to your calls, and speak out at the ballot box in tones not to be misunderstood in the halls of Congress. Our aspiring politicians, who, on the stump, have such large love for the dear people, and in the councils of the nation know and care so little for their true interests, would receive an unmistakeable hint.

The business of stimulating and informing the producers of our country is as arduous as it is noble. The stumbling stone is the want of proper information, and how a requisite amount of information can be disseminated is the puzzle. I hope your school will be a centre from which many instructive rays will radiate, and many teachers will be sent forth to teach Scientific Agriculture.

And I hope, too, that we shall soon get up an Agricultural School in Tennessee. We tried it 16 years ago and failed, but there is more correct thinking among us now than then.

Respectfully.

F. H. Gordon, M D.

Sugartree Farm, (near Rome, Tenn.,) Nov. 1854.

Remarks.—Absence from the State prevented the letter of our esteemed correspondent receiving earlier attention. The enterprising farmers of Tennessee are deserving of all commendation for having constrained the Legislature to establish an Agricultural Bureau at the seat of Government, and divide the State into several districts, the better to advance its great farming interest. The thorough organizations of Societies after the plan given by Dr. Gordon, or something similar to it, cannot fail to render the most important service to the country. A few energetic men in a country to take the lead, are sufficient to establish and maintain an association of a most useful character. Frequent discussions between neighbors pursuing the same occupation prompts them to read and think much more than they would without incentives. Useful experiments will be tried, and additional pains taken to confirm or refute the favorite theories of differing members of the society. They will soon feel the want of a good professional library, and wisely unite their contributions to purchase the same.

In reference to geology in its connection with agriculture, the small work of Dr. Hitchcock, President of Amherst College, is best adapted to popular use. Its retail price is, we believe, but a dollar. Lyell's Elements of Geology is a larger and more elaborate work which may be read with equal interest and profit. A first class text book on Agricultural Geology has yet to be written in the English language; nor have geological phenomena been investigated in their bearing on the soil and subsoil, as extensively and critically as the importance of the subject demands. All superficial investigations are nearly valueless. L.

Upon industry and economy does the success of life depend.

LIST OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED.

NAMES	POST OFFICES.	AM'T.
A H Seabrook, Beaufort,	"	$2.
Josiah E Smith, Pendleton,	"	2.
Dr W H Harrington, Newberry C H.,	"	3.
David Mobley, Gladens Grove, (all right)	"	1.
J C Dye, Johnsonville,	"	1.
Capt J L Boyd, Warrenton,	"	1.
David Gaillard, Winnsboro, (vol. 5)	"	1.
Hon A Patterson, Barnwell C. H.,	"	1.
James Broom, Silverton,	"	1.
A E Lesley. Abbeville C. H.,	"	1.
Samuel Reid, "	"	1.
F Bulkley, Gaddens, (vol. 4)	"	1.
J T McCrory, Gladdens Grove,	"	1.
E Epps, Esq., Salem,	"	2.
A O Norris, Anderson C H.,	"	2.
Daniel Brown, "	"	2.
Calvin Hall, Pendleton,	"	1.
Rev. J W Coleman, Dyson's Mills,	"	2.
Thornton Coleman, Oakland,	"	1.
Gen. J H Hammond, Silverton,	"	1.
Col. J D Wilson, Society Hill,	"	1.
John T Minter, Sandersville,	"	1.
Colin McRea, Camden, (vol. 4)	"	1.
Maj. M Berry, Cedar Falls, (vol. 5)	"	1.
J Woods, " (vol. 4)	"	1.
P R Porcher, Black Oak, (vol. 4 5)	"	2.
Major J M Barr, Leesville, (vol. 5)	"	1.
Geo. McCutchen, sen., Bishopville,	"	1.
A J McBryde, Moffatsville,	"	1.
F M Rast, Sandy Run,	"	1.
L W Rast, "	"	1.
J M Martin, Yorkville,	"	1.
James Crawford, "	"	1.
Thos. J Hazle, Beaufort,	"	2.
Wm. Fripp, Sr., "	"	2.
J T Harvey, "	"	1.
Wm. A Moorcock, "	"	1.
W A Browning, Jedburg,	"	1.
John Mason, Martins Depot,	"	1.
Dr J W Simpson, Laurens c h, (vol 2 3 4)	"	3.
Mabra Madden, "	"	1.
E Madden, "	"	1.
Revd C B Stewart, Centreville, (vol. 2)	"	1.
Dr. T Weir, Raynosa, (vol. 5)	"	1.
James Brian, Yorkville,	"	1.
R W Carter. Chesterville,	"	1.
A B Springs, Fort Mills,	"	15.
W E White,	"	
J W Faulkner,	"	
A C Sutton,	"	
Joseph T White,	"	
John H Stewart,	"	
H W White,	"	
Robt. P Harris,	"	
H M Saville,	"	
Wm. D Russell,	"	
Dr. C L Clawson,	"	
James M Spratt,	"	
Smith Patterson,	"	
Dr James Stewart,	"	
Dr. J M Strong, Pineville,	N. C.	
Wm. Boyce,	"	
E T Shubrick, Pendleton,	"	1.
Dr. S W Bookhardt, Level,	"	1.
Dr. W L Anderson, Greenwood,	"	1.
J R Harrison, Winnsboro, (vol. 4 5 6)	"	3.
O Woodward, " (vol. 5 6)	"	2.
N C McKennon, Cheraw,	"	1.
J W T Dansby, Cedar Creek,	"	1.
Wm. J Muldrow, Mayesville,	"	2.
Geo. Anderson, Waterloo, (vol 4 5)	"	2.
W D Raigan, Newberry C H.,	"	2.
M H Plowden, Plowdens Mills,	"	1.
J M Plowden, "	"	1.
J H Means, Buckhead,	"	3.
D H Kerr. "	"	1.

We have more receipts on hand, which will appear in our next number.

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